

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An isoflavone-containing composition which comprises 15 to 95% by weight of malonyl isoflavone glycosides, 0 to 50% by weight of isoflavones other than malonyl isoflavone glycosides and 5 to 60% by weight of saponins, by taking the sum of the total amounts of isoflavones and saponins in said composition as 100% by weight, wherein the proportion of group A saponins in the saponins is 55% by weight or more, by taking the total amount of saponins in the composition as 100% by weight, and the composition contains isoflavones in an amount of 25 to 95% by weight of the total solid content.

2. (Original) The isoflavone-containing composition according to Claim 1, which is prepared from soybean hypocotyls as the starting material.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The isoflavone-containing composition according to Claim 1, which has a water solubility of at least 20 mg/100 ml at 25°C based on the amount of isoflavones.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A process for producing the isoflavone-containing composition

according to Claim 2, which comprises the steps of:

(A) extracting soybean hypocotyls with 15 to 95% by volume aqueous ethanol at 10 to 50°C to obtain an extract;

(B) bringing a solution of the extract obtained by the step (A) in water into contact with a nonpolar adsorbent resin to allow isoflavones to be adsorbed to the resin; and

(C) eluting isoflavones from the adsorbent resin with 15 to 40% by volume aqueous ethanol.

7. (Original) An edible composition containing the isoflavone-containing

composition according to Claim 1.

8. (Original) A process for fractionating isoflavones and saponins, which comprises extracting soybean hypocotyls with 15 to 95% by volume aqueous ethanol at 10 to 50°C to obtain an extract, bringing a solution of the extract in water into contact with a nonpolar adsorbent resin, eluting an isoflavone-containing fraction from the adsorbent resin with 15 to 40% by volume aqueous ethanol, and then eluting a saponin-containing fraction from the adsorbent resin with 65 to 90% by volume aqueous ethanol.